

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 281221Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1920

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 1 2 3

EXDIS

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, UR

SUBJ: APPEAL OF LENINGRAD JEWS TO BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY AND COMMENT. LENINGRAD ARTIST AND JEWISH REFUSENIK YEVGENIY ABEZGAUZ GAVE POLOFF ON JANUARY 27 A SIGNED APPEAL FROM 23 LENINGRAD JEWS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE, ADDRESSED TO "SECOND BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS OF SOVIET JEWS." ABEZGAUZ ASKED THAT TEXT OF APPEAL BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY WHEN IT MEETS IN BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 17-19. POL-

OFF MADE NO PROMISES REGARDING TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL TO CONFERENCE AND

CONGEN DEFERS TO ADDRESSEES ON ADVISABILITY OF MAKING IT KNOWN THROUGH PRESS OR OTHER CHANNELS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF APPEAL ADDRESSED TO PARTICIPANTS OF BRUSSELS CONFERENCE.

A. BEGIN TEXT. THIRTY YEARS AGO THE ENTIRE WORLD WAS HORRIFIED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE EXTERMINATION OF SIX MILLION JEWS, REPRESENTING ONE THIRD OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

B. AT PRESENT WE CAN OBSERVE THE PROCESS OF DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO MILLION JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION. NOT IN GAS CHAMBERS AND NOT IN EXTERMINATION CAMPS, BUT IN THE PROCESS OF ASSIMILATION. BUT A FORCED ASSIMILATION.

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C. CUT OFF FROM JEWISH RELIGION, HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADITION, THE SOVIET JEWS FIND OUT ABOUT THEIR BELONGING TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE ONLY FROM INSULTS ON THE STREETS OR FROM MEETINGS IN CADRE SECTIONS.

D. BUT WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT THE JEWISH PEOPLE IS THE FACT THAT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ONE CAN ALWAYS FIND PEOPLE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES JEWS AND WHO ARE PROUD OF IT. UNDERSTANDING THAT IN THE SOVIET UNION IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CREATE A CENTER OF JEWISH CULTURE, THEY DECIDED TO DEPART TO THEIR HISTORICAL HOMELAND.

E. AND THEN CAME THE DAY OF JUNE 15, 1970. THE ENTIRE WORLD KNOWS THAT ON THAT DAY IN SEVERAL CITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY CARRIED OUT ARRESTS AND SEARCHES IN MANY JEWISH FAMILIES. IT

WAS NAMELY ON THAT DAY THAT THERE BEGAN AN OPEN CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION AND MOCKERY AGAINST THOSE JEWS WHO EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO DEPART FOR ISRAEL.

F. LEGAL AND ILLEGAL PERSECUTIONS, RELEASE FROM WORK, BLACKMAIL AND SLANDER--THESE WERE THE ANSWER OF THE OFFICIAL ORGANS OF SOVIET POWER TO THE THEN NOT NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS TO OVI.

G. HOWEVER, THE EVENTS OF JUNE 15 FORCED MANY HUNDREDS, AND THEN THOUSANDS, OF JEWS TO THINK ABOUT THEIR FUTURE AND GIVE AN ANSWER TO THE MOST BURNING QUESTION--COULD THEY OR COULD THEY NOT REMAIN JEWS IN

THE SOVIET UNION?

H. COULD THEY OR COULDN'T THEY, FINDING THEMSELVES IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE PRISONERS OF ZION WERE LANGUISHING IN THE POT'KINSK AND PERM CAMPS,

REMAIN JEWS?

I. COULD THEY OR COULDN'T THEY, FINDING THEMSELVES IN A COUNTRY WHERE ZIONISM IS IDENTIFIED WITH FASCISM, REMAIN JEWS?

J. NOT ALL JEWS DECIDED THIS QUESTION. AND IN ORDER TO FRIGHTEN THEM AND FORCE THEM TO GIVE UP THE THOUGHT OF REUNITING WITH THEIR PEOPLE, THE KGB CONTINUES THE OPEN POLICY OF PERSECUTION AND PROVOCATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL COMMENCING JUNE 15, 1970. THE WITNESS TO THIS IS THE COURT TRIALS OF 1975 OF MIKHAIL SHTERN AND MARK NASHPITS, BORIS TSITLENK AND

ANATOLIY MALKIN, ANDREY LEVINSON AND YAKOV VINAROV, L'VOV ROYTBURD AND

ALEKSANDR SIL'NITSKY, AND ALSO THE HUNDREDS OF REFUSALS OF PERMISSION TO DEPART FOR ISRAEL.

K. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES CONSCIOUSLY CREATED AND SUPPORT AN INSTITUTION OF THOSE REFUSED AND IT IS A TERRIBLE FATE FOR THOSE WHO FIND THEMSELVES AMONG ITS NUMBERS. PEOPLE ARE CUT OFF FROM PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY FOR MANY YEARS, LOSING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND QUALIFICATIONS. THE GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL ARE VARIOUS, BUT THE REASON IS ONE: THOSE REFUSED SERVE AS HOSTAGES AND FRIGHTENING EXAMPLES IN THE EYES OF OTHER JEWS WHO THINK ABOUT DEPARTING FOR ISRAEL.

L. THUS, THE EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN OUR VIEW DEPENDS ON THE DECISION OF TWO MAIN QUESTIONS:

1) THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL FOLLOWERS OF ZION. WE CONSIDER IT

OUR DUTY TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR FATE FOR THE SAKE OF OTHER JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVING THE POSSIB-

ILITY TO DEPART FOR ISRAEL.

2) DEMAND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO RENOUNCE THE SYSTEM OF HOSTAGES AND PLACE THE QUESTION OF GIVING REFUSALS FOR DEPARTURE TO ISRAEL ON A LEGAL BASIS IN A MANNER THAT ANY CITIZEN RECEIVING REFUSAL CAN IF DESIRED PROTEST HIS REFUSAL AND THE PERIOD OF QUARANTINE IN SECRET AND

IN A JUDICIAL MANNER.

M. AND IN ORDER THAT HISTORY DOES NOT AGAIN REPEAT ITSELF, IN ORDER THAT TWO MILLION JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION DO NOT DISAPPEAR, WE PROPOSE

THE DAY OF JUNE 15 BE CONSIDERED "DAY OF DEFENSE OF JEWS OF THE SOVIET

UNION."

N. WE HOPE THAT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE JEWS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET UNION THERE WILL BE INCLUDED NOT ONLY THE JEWS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD BUT ALSO PEOPLES OF ALL COUNTRIES, THE HEADS OF STATE WHO SIGNED

THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. END TEXT.

3. APPEAL IS SIGNED BY FOLLOWING LENINGRAD JEWS, ALL REFUSENIKS:  
IZRAEL VANNAVITSKIY, GRIGORIY IOFFE, LEV ZHIGUN, LAZAR LIBERMAN,  
GEORGIY SOKIRENSKIY, GRIGORIY GOMAN, YEVGENIY ABEZGAUZ, ABA TARATURA,  
LEOPOL'D YEKHILEVSKIY, MIKHAIL BARGMAN, ALEKSANDR BOGUSLAVSKIY,  
MIKHAIL STRUGACH, LEONID GOL'DIN, YEVGENIY SHANOVICH, ALEKSANDR  
CHERTIN, ILYA SHOSTAKOVSKIY, RIMMA SOSNA, SOLOMON ROZIN, ARKADIY  
RABINOV, IGOR' BREGER, VLADIMIR LIFSHITS, ILYA GINZBURG, ZHANNA  
KARTSEVA.  
NEUBERT

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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